23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS	Page 1 of 8
Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 22-February-2008

#### 23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS

#### 23.1 Introduction

- 23.1.1 Forensic Lab Specialists (FLS) provide important support to Forensic Scientists in the laboratory. Typically FLS perform duties including, but not limited to the following:
  - Prepare solutions, reagents and standards,
  - Participate in the quality assurance/quality control program,
  - Maintain inventory of expendable supplies, reagents and materials,
  - Perform routine maintenance of instrumentation and equipment,
  - Perform general housekeeping duties (e.g., cleaning glassware, removing sharps waste)
  - Transfer sealed evidence and
  - Under close supervision, perform routine procedures in the analysis of casework.

# 23.2 Training Outline

- 23.2.1 Instruction will be provided to the FLS by directed study, demonstration by the trainer and observation of the trainee. All tasks are performed under the direction of the trainer until the training segment is completed.
- 23.2.2 Reference information for the topics below can be found in other sections of this manual, the Controlled Substances Procedures Manual (CSPM) and other Department manuals. The specific locations are noted by section numbers in parentheses by the topic.

### 23.2.3 Orientation

- 23.2.3.1 Introduction to the local facility, staff and how the FLS fits into the Department of Forensic Science (DFS).
- 23.2.3.2 Description of the FLS position and clarification of duties.
- 23.2.3.3 Coverage of the following:
  - Ouality Manual
  - Controlled Substances Procedures Manual with emphasis on the Quality Assurance Section
  - Controlled Substances Training Manual
  - Regional Operating Procedures
  - Safety Manual, to include Bloodborne Pathogen and Chemical Hygiene training
  - Organizational Chart of DFS
- 23.2.3.4 Introduction of the technical capabilities of all the DFS laboratories and how it fits into the Virginia law enforcement system.
- 23.2.3.5 Introduction to the LIMS system.
- 23.2.4 Laboratory and Glassware
  - 23.2.4.1 Objectives
    - To familiarize the FLS with the basic cleaning procedures for laboratory areas, hoods and glassware
    - To train the FLS on the proper operation of the laboratory glassware washer
    - To familiarize the FLS with the safety requirements of the laboratory and available personal protective equipment (PPE)

23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS	Page 2 of 8
Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 22-February-2008

- To instruct the FLS on the proper handling and maintenance of compressed gas cylinders
- To familiarize the FLS with the proper disposal of Biohazard and Sharps waste

### 23.2.4.2 Modes of Instruction

- Demonstrations by the trainer
- 23.2.4.3 Reference
  - 23.2.4.3.1 DFS Safety Manual
  - 23.2.4.3.2 Operations manual for glassware washer
- 23.2.4.4 Modes of Evaluation
  - 23.2.4.4.1 Observation of the FLS by the trainer
- 23.2.5 Reagent Preparation
  - 23.2.5.1 Objectives
    - To familiarize the FLS with the preparation of color test reagents and thin layer chromatography (TLC) baths and sprays
    - To familiarize the FLS with the preparation of standards and solutions
    - To familiarize the FLS with the Quality Assurance schedule and documentation
  - 23.2.5.2 Modes of Instruction
    - Demonstrations by the trainer
  - 23.2.5.3 Reference
    - 23.2.5.3.1 *CSPM* Color Test Section
    - 23.2.5.3.2 *CSPM* Thin Layer Chromatography Section
    - 23.2.5.3.3 *CSPM* Quality Assurance Section
  - 23.2.5.4 Modes of Evaluation
    - 23.2.5.4.1 Observation of the FLS by the trainer
- 23.2.6 Balances
  - 23.2.6.1 Objectives
    - To familiarize the FLS with the operation of laboratory balances
    - To familiarize the FLS with balance calibration checks and quality assurance
  - 23.2.6.2 Modes of Instruction
    - Presentations and demonstrations by the trainer regarding balances to include general use, leveling and cleaning
    - Presentation and demonstration regarding the quality assurance of balances

	23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS		Page 3 of 8		
	Department of Forensic Science		Amendment Designator:		
CON	CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL		Effective Date: 22-February-2008		
	• Study Questions (see Section 6.5)				
	23.2.6.3	Reference			
		23.2.6.3.1 Balance Manufacturer's operating manual			
		23.2.6.3.2 <i>CSPM</i> Quality Assurance Section			
	23.2.6.4	Modes of Evaluation			
		23.2.6.4.1 Observation of the FLS by the trainer, including of	uality assurance of balances		
		23.2.6.4.2 Completion of the study questions			
		23.2.6.4.3 Competency test sample Receive a previously weighed sample from the tra	iner		
23.2.7	Ordering	g/Stocking			
	23.2.7.1	Objectives			
		• To familiarize the FLS with routine ordering practices for	consumable laboratory supplies		
	23.2.7.2	Modes of Instruction			
	Demonstrations by the trainer				
	23.2.7.3	Reference			
		23.2.7.3.1 DFS Administrative Policies			
	23.2.7.4	Modes of Evaluation			
		23.2.7.4.1 Observation of the FLS by the trainer			
23.2.8	Evidence	e Transfer			
	23.2.8.1	Objectives			
	<ul> <li>To familiarize the FLS with the fundamentals of evidence security and transfer procedure for the FLS to handle sealed evidence</li> <li>To familiarize the FLS with the LIMS system</li> </ul>				
	23.2.8.2	Modes of Instruction			
	<ul> <li>Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper chain of custody and evidence handling proce The FLS should observe the trainer transferring evidence for a minimum of two weeks.</li> <li>Demonstration by the trainer regarding the proper use of the LIMS system.</li> <li>Study Questions (see Section 5.5.1 – 5.5.5)</li> </ul>				
	23.2.8.3	Reference			
		23.2.8.3.1 <i>Quality Manual</i> , Department of Forensic Science,	Evidence Handling section		

# 23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS Page 4 of 8 Department of Forensic Science Amendment Designator: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL Effective Date: 22-February-2008

23.2.8.3.2 LIMS system manual

#### 23.2.8.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.8.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

The trainer should observe the FLS transferring evidence while maintaining appropriate documentation for a minimum of two weeks.

## 23.2.8.4.2 Written Examination

The content of the questions will be based on both the study questions and references.

#### 23.2.9 Color Tests

## 23.2.9.1 Objectives

• To familiarize the FLS with color tests to enable them to perform quality assurance and assist examiners with casework under supervision.

# 23.2.9.2 Modes of Instruction

• Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper color test procedures

### 23.2.9.3 Reference

23.2.9.3.1 CSPM, Color Tests section

23.2.9.3.2 *CSPM*, Marijuana section

## 23.2.9.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.9.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

## 23.2.10 Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC)

## 23.2.10.1 Objectives

• To familiarize the FLS with the practice of TLC to enable them to perform quality assurance and assist examiners with casework under supervision.

## 23.2.10.2 Modes of Instruction

• Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper TLC procedures

#### 23.2.10.3 Reference

23.2.10.3.1 CSPM, Thin Layer Chromatography section

## 23.2.10.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.10.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS	Page 5 of 8	
Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:	
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 22-February-2008	

# 23.2.11 Gas Chromatography (GC)

# 23.2.11.1 Objectives

• To familiarize the FLS with the practice of GC to enable them to perform quality assurance and assist examiners with casework under supervision.

#### 23.2.11.2 Modes of Instruction

• Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper GC procedures

#### 23.2.11.3 Reference

23.2.11.3.1 CSPM, Gas Chromatography section

#### 23.2.11.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.11.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

## 23.2.12 Extractions

# 23.2.12.1 Objectives

- To familiarize the FLS with extraction methodologies used in standard preparation
- To familiarize the FLS with extraction methodologies used in sample preparation

## 23.2.12.2 Modes of Instruction

• Demonstrations by the trainer regarding proper extraction procedures

#### 23.2.12.3 Reference

23.2.12.3.1 *CSPM*, Psilocybin and Psilocyn section 23.2.12.3.2 *CSPM*. Cathinone

#### 23.2.12.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.12.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

23.2.12.4.2 Competency test sample(s)

Receive a previously validated sample from the trainer for each type of extraction

### 23.2.13 Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS)

# 23.2.13.1 Objectives

- To familiarize the FLS with the practice of GC/MS to enable them to perform quality assurance and assist examiners with casework under supervision.
- To familiarize the FLS with the ChemStation software.

#### 23.2.13.2 Modes of Instruction

• Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper GC/MS procedures

# 23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS Page 6 of 8 Department of Forensic Science Amendment Designator: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL Effective Date: 22-February-2008

• Demonstration of liner cleaning and preparation by the trainer

#### 23.2.13.3 Reference

23.2.13.3.1 *CSPM*, GC/MS Section 23.2.13.3.2 *CSPM*, GC Section 10.3.13.1 (liner cleaning)

#### 23.2.13.4 Modes of Evaluation

23.2.13.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer

## 23.2.14 Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR)

## 23.2.14.1 Objectives

- To familiarize the FLS with the practice of FTIR and associated accessories to enable them to perform quality assurance and assist examiners with casework under supervision.
- To familiarize the FLS with the OMNIC software.

#### 23.2.14.2 Modes of Instruction

- Demonstration by the trainer regarding proper FTIR sampling procedures
- Nicolet OMNIC Tutorial
- Study questions
- Practical exercises

#### 23.2.14.3 Reference

23.2.14.3.1 *CSPM*, Infrared Spectroscopy section

### 23.2.14.4 Study Questions

- 23.2.14.4.1 What is Infrared Spectrophotometry?
- 23.2.14.4.2 Draw a block diagram of the FTIR and briefly describe the functions of the major components.
- 23.2.14.4.3 What is meant by the "fingerprint region" of an IR spectrum?
- 23.2.14.4.4 List advantages and disadvantages of ATR versus traditional bench FTIR.
- 23.2.14.4.5 What spectral libraries are available?
- 23.2.14.4.6 Describe how spectra run for an examiner are labeled.

## 23.2.14.5 Practical Exercises

- 23.2.14.5.1 Obtain the following samples from the trainer and run on the ATR accessory and using a KBr pellet. Print results according to trainer instructions including a library search.
  - Cocaine base
  - Cocaine HCl
  - Procaine HCl
  - Amoxicillin

23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS	Page 7 of 8	
Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:	
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 22-February-2008	

- 23.2.14.5.2 Obtain the following samples from the trainer and run on the ATR accessory. Perform any clean-up procedures indicated by the trainer. Provide printed data to the trainer for evaluation of data and documentation practices.
  - Gamma butylrolactone
  - 3,4-MDMA HCl
  - Ephedrine
  - Pseudoephedrine
  - Methamphetamine
  - Phentermine
  - Sugar
  - Sodium bicarbonate
  - Cocaine base / procaine mixture
  - Cocaine HCl / lactose mixture
- 23.2.14.6 Modes of Evaluation
  - 23.2.14.6.1 Observation of FLS by trainer
  - 23.2.14.6.2 Completion of study questions
  - 23.2.14.6.3 Competency test sample

Receive a previously validated sample from the trainer

## 23.2.15 Tablets and Capsules

# 23.2.15.1 Objectives

- To familiarize the FLS with available references for pharmaceutical identifiers
- 23.2.15.2 Modes of Instruction
  - Demonstrations by the trainer
- 23.2.15.3 Reference
  - 23.2.15.3.1 CSPM, Pharmaceutical Identifiers section
- 23.2.15.4 Modes of Evaluation
  - 23.2.15.4.1 Observation of FLS by trainer
- 23.3 Completion of Training
  - 23.3.1 The training will be considered complete when the FLS has completed all of the sections in the training manual, which are required by the TC, and been evaluated by the TC or his designee.
  - 23.3.2 The checklist for the FLS training will be signed and completed for each area assigned by the TC and any other personnel who assisted in the training in accordance with the Department Quality Manual.
  - 23.3.3 When the training is complete the TC will notify all supervisors, the Section Chief, the QAC and training records will then be stored in accordance with the Department Quality Manual.

23 FORENSIC LAB SPECIALISTS	Page 8 of 8
Department of Forensic Science	Amendment Designator:
CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES TRAINING MANUAL	Effective Date: 22-February-2008
23.3.4 If the FLS cannot meet the expected criteria during an expected period of t effect appropriate action.	ime for training, steps will be taken to  ◆End